



# The Hour

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Pact with Moscow Dismays Nazi Rank and File.....	page 1
Kuhn Also Confused by New Agreement.....	page 2
Nazi Air Strength Analyzed.....	page 3
News from Southeastern Europe.....	page 6
"Ribbentrop Bureau" vs. Latin America.....	page 8
Heller Keller on Ban of Her Book by Nazis.....	page 9
"Irish Hitler" of Chicago.....	page 10

*"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"*

11 W. 42nd St., New York  
Cable Address: ACANP

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Number 9

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## PACT WITH MOSCOW UPSETS NAZI TRUST IN HITLER

### Unrest Among Storm Troopers

FORBACH (France, near the Saar Basin), August 29 -- Germans crossing the border into Lorraine relate that the Storm Troop units in the Saar region and the Palatinate are in utter confusion as a result of the conclusion of the Reich-Soviet non-aggression pact. The pact is the only topic of conversation in the ranks and the general opinion prevails that Hitler has been deluding his loyal followers during the many years of the Nazi movement. Formerly believing in all sincerity that communism was the enemy, the rank-and-file Nazi is now reading in the papers that the Soviet Union is great and strong and that Hitler has promised never to move against her. The Storm-Troopers are reminding their commanders of all the terrorist acts to which they were stimulated under the sign of anti-communism. At a meeting of the SA, at which the now-postponed Nuremberg Congress was discussed, one brown-shirt shouted out asking whether Hitler and Goebbels would repeat their speeches of former Party Congresses in bitter condemnation of Russia. The entire audience of Nazis broke into loud laughter, and the speaker's face visibly reddened.

Newspapers are swamped with letters in which the "historic turn" announced by Hitler is contrasted with his innumerable anti-Soviet declarations. Factory workers are talking about nothing else but the pact, primarily from this viewpoint: how strong must the Soviet Union be if Hitler gives up his fundamental position at the price of the pact. Trust in Hitler has suffered a severe setback; the contentions of the Nazi propaganda machine are criticized and distrusted more than ever before. The atrocity stories about Poland and the press campaign against France and England find no takers. Everywhere the people state: we cannot believe Hitler anymore.

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## FRITZ KUHN SWEATS OVER BERLIN-MOSCOW PACT

## Agreement Confuses His Plans for Winter

When asked by New York reporters last week for an opinion on the German-Soviet pact of non-aggression, Fritz Kuhn, the fuehrer of the Nazi Bund, declared that he was not concerned with anything that Germany did. "We are an American party," Kuhn said in heavily coated accents, "and we have no concern with what Germany does."

The Hour, however, learns that Kuhn was far more concerned than the above statement denoted. The Bund's main office in New York was in a white heat over the signing of the pact, for the news threw the American Nazi line of "fighting the Jewish bolshevism" entirely out of kilter.

The facts are that Kuhn first tried to get an interpretation of the step from German diplomatic officials in the United States, but all he received was an abrupt shrug of the shoulders. His next action was to cable to the propaganda headquarters in Berlin. There was not much help from that address, either.

Kuhn's frenzy was in a large measure due to the fact that the news from abroad came at a moment when he was holding conferences with George Deatherage, commander of the fascist Knights of the White Camellia discussing their joint plans of a campaign to be waged this coming winter against American democracy. The night on which the Berlin-Moscow pact was signed, Kuhn, together with Deatherage and Joseph McWilliams (who is national commander of the fascist Christian Mobilizers, most violent of Coughlinite groups), addressed in New York a mass meeting of 5,000. The crowd was thoroughly dissatisfied by the comparative absence of anti-Semitic blasts from the platform. The guns of the fascist and Bundist leaders were instead aimed almost exclusively at President Roosevelt.

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"HITLER MIGHT HAVE OUTSMARTED HIMSELF," KUHN'S FRIEND WORRIES

The Nazis Cheated Themselves Out of Chamberlain's Assistance

"Who knows if it's good for us," replied a friend of Fritz Kuhn's (and himself no small figure in the affairs of the German-American Bund) to an inquiry by a representative of The Hour as to the Bund's stand on the German-Soviet pact of non-aggression. Unaware of our reporter's identity, the Bundist continued: "Hitler might have outsmarted himself. Chamberlain, who was always Hitler's friend, thought that some day our Fuehrer would go to war against Stalin. Now Chamberlain is fooled. This may mean that the Umbrella Man is through, and then, when Hitler looks for his British friend to help him take other countries, Chamberlain ist nicht da (Chamberlain is not there)."

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## GERMAN AIR POWER ANALYZED

## Nazi Claims Are Shown As Excessive

How strong is Germany in the air? Fancy has had freest play in the many estimates made since September, 1938. At the time of Munich, rumor gave the Nazis a fleet of some 10,000 planes, and the monthly production was stated to be from 600 to over 1,000. Today, estimates put the number of German planes at from 7,000 to 10,000, with one expert claiming that with unassembled (stored) planes Germany could muster twice this number.

The most reliable estimates, not affected by Nazi propaganda, are based on secret reports from workers in Nazi airplane factories. These reports hold that Germany has probably built 10,000 planes between 1933 and 1938, but that this number of planes includes many models which are now outdated. In 1939, Nazi monthly production levels are high but not much higher, if at all, than those of England, the United States and Russia. The shortage of skilled labor, the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, the lack of new capital, the widespread slowing-down of production brought about by Nazi policy, all these are vital factors in the Nazis' plane-building capacity.

Sober estimates by the Reich's general staff contradict Goering's boasts about his air-armada and its alleged great preponderance over the air-fleets of other powers. We read in Das Buch der Luftwaffe (The Book of Air-Arms), published in 1939, a symposium by leading Nazi air-officers: "The Soviet Union possesses the greatest air-fleet in the world. ... It may be reckoned that in the course of 1938 England had from 6,000 to 7,000 duty-ready planes at her disposal." In his book Luftkrieg bedroht Europa (Air-War Threatens Europe), published in 1938, the Nazi military writer L. Schuttel stated: "France has 5,410 planes in all, of which 2,860 are first-line ones. ... The Red air-fleet today (early in 1938) totals 7,000 planes, and by 1940 will reach 20,000." According to the Nazi sources of early 1939, Italy possessed perhaps 2,500 first-line planes, or 4,000 including reserves of second-line ships, while Japan had 2,700 planes all told. Allowing the Nazis their claims in full, the total air-fleet of the Axis late in 1938 counted 16,700 planes while the combined fleets of Russia, France and England numbered between 18,410 and 19,410. Without Soviet planes, the Allies are way behind the Axis.

What is the comparative strength of monthly production since January, and especially March, 1939? The latest figures show that England is nearing the 1,000 monthly rate; and that France, although lagging, is adding to her forces between 200 and 300 planes each month. Such observers as Major Seversky of the United States claim that Germany has not been able to increase her plane-building pace and is now definitely falling behind Britain.

## As For the Speed Records

In the matter of speed three Nazi records are known: early

this year a new Messerschmitt pursuit plane traveled 468 miles per hour over a regulation course; in a Berlin test a twin-engined Junker bomber carried a two-ton load at the rate of 313 m. p. h.; and a Heinkel military pursuit plane attained the terrific velocity of 463.9 m. p. h. on a triangular course. These speed records may be true and are impressive, but it is also true that as far back as 1929 a British racing plane set a record of 429 m. p. h. However, the plane was specially constructed, and its motor quickly wore out. Thus the Nazis' record, although a fact, can have military value only if the planes used were ordinary stock models. American experts in Berlin have proof that these planes were specially prepared for the trial test. The Swiss have had sad experiences with ordinary Nazi planes: several times Junker models had to be replaced on the passenger lines of Switzerland.

Major Al Williams, the celebrated U. S. test pilot, is the only known American to fly the Nazi military plane, Messerschmitt 109, Germany's number-one plane of 1938. Williams asserts: "I don't believe that there's another job in the world that can out-climb, out-speed or out-turn it." In contrast to this, we have the opinion of the late Frank Tinker, Jr. based on his actual fighting experiences in Spain: "The Messerschmitt is Germany's number-one fighter, but is outclassed by older U. S. model planes... The ones we fought against in Spain had a top-speed of 275 m. p. h. at most. ... I know because I checked three of them against a Russian development of a Boeing P-26 (American design) and inasmuch as we were right behind them and firing steadily, it was very probable they were traveling at top-speed. ... The particular one that traveled 379 m. p. h. was certainly a suped-up job..." Also, there is the verified record in fast climbing held by America for a Curtiss Wright 21 to set against Williams' claim for the Messerschmitt 109. A Martin bomber of U. S. manufacture, and of similar carrying capacity as the Nazi Junker model, is rated at a speed of 350 m. p. h.

British planes are capable of performances also matching those of the Nazi ships. The Supermarine Spitfire and the Hawker Hurricane fighters are considered superior to all other pursuit planes in speed. Moreover, this speed comes from reliable engines and not racing engines designed to create records. The British Bristol Beaufort, a light-weight bomber now entering mass production, is capable of about 325 m. p. h., matching the Junker record, and the new French Liore et Olivier bombers, also capable of this speed, have been coming off French assembly lines for some time. The best performances of the military planes of other leading aeronautic centers are not made public, which throws suspicion on the highly-touted speed-records of Nazi airplanes.

#### Training and Spirit of Pilots as Chief Key

But the training of pilots is the main key to the value of air-operations in wartime. Major George F. Eliot estimates that personnel loss will range from 60 to 100 per cent in the first month of a large-scale war. The number of Nazi-trained pilots is not known. It is however known that, while for military aviation the very best ma-





terial for pilots is younger men, Germany has not trained enough people in this category to man her many planes. Furthermore, the performances of German pilots in Spain were notoriously inferior in action and spirit to their Loyalist opponents. On the other hand, France has 4,000 perfectly trained first-line pilots, 30,000 reserve pilots who have logged 100 to 1,000 flying hours apiece, and is training 4,000 more pilots each year; England has some of the world's best pilots in the Royal Flying Force and is matching her increasing plane production with military and private schooling of pilots; while Russia has more than 10,000 first-line pilots and surpasses all other countries in mass training of aviators.

No qualified observer doubts the money, energy and thoroughness supporting German aeronautic research. The bulky and elaborate Jahrbuch der deutschen Luftwaffe (The Yearbook of German Air-Arms) for 1939, organ of the Reichsluftschutzbund, is testimony to expensive efforts, seemingly crowned with success by the highly regarded performances of Nazi planes. Yet more than 300 Nazi pilots have been killed in plane accidents since the beginning of this year, a rate exceeding that of any other nation. Either the human material can't or won't stand up, or Nazi research in aeronautics is no less immune to the corrosive effects of Hitler mysticism than other branches of scientific endeavor.

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#### NAZI MILITARY CONTROL OF SLOVAKIA FORETOLD BY THE HOUR SERVICE

Military control of Slovakia by the German Nazis, announced in the world's press on August 18, was predicted by The Hour news-service more than a month before. Advices reaching our New York office from our special channels of information in Europe made it possible for us to issue exclusively to Mr. Wythe Williams, editor of Greenwich Time, a number of behind-the-scenes news items on the situation in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Mr. Williams used these items in his column, "As The Clock Strikes" for July 10, giving credit to The Hour service. Our item on the Nazi preparations of a military coup in Slovakia read as follows:

"Under the tutelage of Nazi occupants, the Slovak army is undergoing organizational changes, with special stress placed on the alteration of names and insignias of commanding ranks. This will bring the Slovak troop formations very near the Reichswehr structurally. Goering has declared himself particularly pleased with the plan, which traps these troops into part of Hitler's army, and will compel them to fight for the Reich on any strange front when the second world war is finally under way."

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## BALKAN COUNTRIES FEAR HITLER'S PLANS

A Traveler's Impressions Conveyed to The Hour

Southeastern Europe lives in dread of the next Nazi drive either against Poland or down the Danube. Such is the impression which Mr. A., a friend of The Hour, brought recently from a tour through Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

Germans are everywhere in the Balkan countries. At a border, a native officer going through a train and collecting foreign passports for inspection would come out with one American passport, two French, three or four British, and no less than fifteen German documents. These many Germans travel either as business men or as scientists. They prefer the latter category, and the Rumanians jokingly dub all their German visitors "microbe-hunters." Isn't it curious, they remark, that all these Nazi visitors hunt microbes in the oil-bearing regions of Rumania?

On station platforms and at river piers A. saw stacks and rows of agricultural machinery with names of Reich firms on the sides. Natives passed bitter remarks about these evidences of extensive German business, and when A. asked why they bought German machinery if they felt so badly about it they replied: "Where else can we buy machines? The Nazis are practically the only ones who purchase our corn and other produce. So we have to buy machines from them."

"America and Russia -- Only Hope of World's Peace"

In trains and restaurants Germans seldom succeed in drawing natives into conversation. There is a sort of silent boycott directed at the Nazi travelers. To A., on learning that he was an American, natives spoke eagerly and frankly. Americans are once more popular in Southeastern Europe. In Bulgaria and Yugoslavia especially, A. was told that "America and Russia are the only hope of the world's peace." German aggression will lead to a war sooner or later, such is the general fear in the Balkans. A. felt that the Rumanian army did not make too good a showing -- its peasant-soldiers did not look efficient but he was impressed with the smarter appearance of the Polish army.

The Germans are wrong if they bank on disaffection in Yugoslavia, A. felt. On many occasions Croats spoke to him of their fear of Hitler's drive and of their willingness to stand up together with Serbs against the Nazis. "I am a Croat, and this man is a Serb," a young man once said to A., "but we are Yugoslavs together." Thus the concept of Yugoslavia as a nation is being strengthened by the very threat of a Nazi drive against it.

## On the Polish-Slovak Border

Our informant traveled to the Polish-Slovak frontier, through the mountainous territory taken by the Poles as the result of Munich.





When A. put several questions about it, Poles seemed to be apologetic. They argued that if they hadn't taken this strategic region the Nazis would have grabbed it. At the very border A. talked to Slovak peasants. Through Polish interpreters A. inquired how the Slovaks liked it under their new Polish masters. They answered that once upon a time they had disliked their Austrian rulers, and after the World War had protested against being bossed by their Czech brothers, and now they were dissatisfied with the Polish annexationists. "God knows who may come next," they concluded. The general impression remained that the days when their land was part of Czechoslovakia were really the best.

A. did not enter the Reich but crossed into France via Italy. Here he was impressed with the many frank jokes of both Italians and foreigners at the expense of Mussolini, also with the poor quality of bread. Early in July, at Milan, the best bread he could buy was made of 60 per cent wheat and 40 per cent corn. He ate it, and it made him ill.

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#### TERROR AND TENSION IN THE REICH

Visitor in July Finds People's Fear as High  
As It Was Just Before Munich

Germany is sick, this is the feeling a neutral traveler gathers as he passes through the Reich. Mr. B., an American recently back from Europe, tells The Hour that while in Germany he could not escape the vision of an impending catastrophe.

There is terror and tension in the Reich's air, B. reports. The German people are afraid of war. An impression has been created abroad that, while last September the people of Germany were not wholly with Hitler and dreaded war, now they are overwhelmingly with him and wholeheartedly believe that they must fight the "encirclement." B. calls this impression a result of Nazi propaganda in England and other foreign countries. Actually, Germans fear war as much as they did before Munich, and are as little with Hitler now as they were then.

Everything in the world is relative, says B. as he describes the great relief which he felt on crossing the Brenner Pass into Italy. Terror and tension he found in Italy, too, but to a lesser degree than in the Reich. He found that the Italians were taking the perilous situation with more humor than he could discover among Germans. Food was poor and scanty in Italy, but it was better than in the Reich. Everyone was talking of white bread baked from wheat recently (late July) purchased abroad. Yet, the very fact that white bread could be such a widespread topic of excitement was significant of the general shortage of food.

Despite the slightly better food situation and the more humorous attitude, B. found worry everywhere among the Italians. "The big question mark in their minds now is Mussolini. They are no longer sure of his success. They think he is getting old."

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# "RIBBENTROP BUREAU" EYES LATIN AMERICA

To guide Franco in re-establishing Spain's empire in Latin America and North Africa, the little-known "Ribbentrop Bureau" of the Reich's foreign office has set up a new division of "Hispanic Relations." The Hour learns that, realizing the partial failure of their direct effort at penetration of Latin America, the Nazis plan to use fascist Spain as a camouflaged key to the southern republics. The "Ribbentrop Bureau" directs certain important foreign relations of the Nazis independently of the Reich's official diplomatic missions.

In view of the above, especial importance is attached to an article by Franco's minister of education Martin, "Spain and the Ibero-American Countries," in the August issue of the Nazi *Europaeische Revue*. Spain must have a leading rôle in Latin America's cultural and economic affairs, writes Martin, for, according to him, this is the right due to Spain as the motherland of the states below the Rio Grande. The Spanish-American youth, he insists, must be won for the great Hispanic world-community: "The Hispanic peoples have once again found themselves and recognized the clear line of a common destiny of universal character."

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## HITLER WOULD LIKE TO SET ARGENTINE AGAINST ENGLAND

Falkland Islands, lying off Argentine but belonging to Great Britain, will soon be claimed by the government of Buenos Aires, declares the *Boersenzeitung*, leading financial newspaper of Berlin, in a special article published on August 17. Entitled "The Seizure of Falkland Islands," the article refers with heavy sarcasm to the contention of the British Royal Institute that England's right to the islands was justified by more than 100 years of uninterrupted ownership. The author recalls that Danzig used to belong to Prussia and the Reich for more than 120 years, and yet in British eyes this does not constitute the Nazis' right to the Free City.

The British, in reply, claim that the Germans want the Falkland Islands for themselves rather than for Argentine. The islands are the key to the Comodoro Rivadavia oil fields of Argentine, which fields the Nazis would like to control in war-time. During the World War, the fleets of the British and the Germans fought two battles in the vicinity of these islands.

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## END OF DICTATOR BUSCH OF BOLIVIA

On August 22, after four brief months of dictatorship, Gorman Busch of Bolivia was found dying of a bullet wound. What is the mystery behind the alleged suicide? In time to come, through our South American sources of information, we hope to supply the answer. Meantime, for the rise of ill-starred Busch to dictatorship with the aid of the Axis, we refer the reader to The Hour of June 15.

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## NAZIS ARE BLIND, SAYS HELEN KELLER

## Comments on Ban of Her Book in Germany

The most hopeless blind of the world are Nazis, according to Helen Keller. They are blind because they "acquiesce in slavery and fail to distinguish principle from lust for power," the distinguished author stated. In a special communication to The Hour, commenting on the recent ban by the Nazi police of her book, Helen Keller's Journal, Miss Keller declared:

"Banning of my Journal in Germany challenges me to assert rights of normal people and handicapped alike against brute terrorism, for they are blind who acquiesce in slavery and fail to distinguish principle from lust for power. Covenants with inner and outer darkness are best to their own devisors as they have ever been throughout history. Freedom and independent thinking may be banned, but they are mankind's very breath of life, mightier than diplomacy or dictatorship because proof is their foundation and strength."

Miss Keller's book was banned by the Nazis on August 14. They gave as their reason a number of statements contained in the book on the injustices and brutalities of Hitler's state. The book was published in March, 1938, but no action was taken by the Nazis until this month when news reached Berlin of the wide publicity caused by Helen Keller's revelations through this bulletin of the plight of the deaf and blind in the Reich (see The Hour for May 15).

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## HITLERITE TEACHES GERMAN IN NEW YORK'S HUNTER COLLEGE

Assistant Professor Otto Koischwitz, German-language teacher at Hunter College in New York City, is an open and active propagandist of Nazism. Only a few weeks ago his "American Letter," appearing in the Nazi publication Literatur, proclaimed that Hitler was indeed Germany, that democracy, by being anti-Nazi, was actually anti-German, and that Broadway was ruled by such "anti-German propaganda" as the play "The American Way." In 1938 Koischwitz published in German a study of Eugene O'Neill (Junker & Duennhaupt, Berlin), in which he praised the American dramatist for his alleged failure to protest against Nazism. In 1935 Koischwitz wrote a book in English, A German-American Interprets Germany (Gutenberg Publishing Co., Milwaukee), full of praise of Hitler and book-burning, scorn of democracy and Jews, and such quotations as "Intellect is poison, blood is power."

The Hour hereby calls the attention of the Dies Committee to the case of Koischwitz as supplementary to the testimony given on August 21 before the Committee by Dr. John Harvey Sherman, president of Tampa University, on the extent of Nazi attempts at propaganda in the colleges of Florida, Louisiana and other states.

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## DESPITE PROBATION, "IRISH HITLER" OF CHICAGO PLANS SEPTEMBER RALLY

## Raymond Healy Disregards Sentence -- Continues Fascist Activities

CHICAGO, August 26 (Special to The Hour) -- Raymond Joseph Healy, age 26, self-styled "Irish Hitler of the United States," was fined \$25 and costs on August 3 by Judge William V. Daly of the municipal court at Chicago for distributing his fascist and anti-Semitic monthly The Key. While sentencing Healy, Judge Daly declared that, if this country is to remain free from the menace of fascism, all the people in America must be united in defense of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. "But your activities are in the opposite direction," Judge Daly concluded, adding to the sentence a six-month probation.

Despite this setback, Healy so far has shown no signs of calling off, or withdrawing his name from, the "Gentile Day" which he announced in a recent issue of The Key for September 24. The "Day" is to be celebrated in a Chicago hall, with the following fascists and nazis as speakers: Healy for his publication and his "Gentile Workers Party"; George Deatherage, commander of the Knights of the White Camellia; William Wernecke, chairman of the Joint Committee of Patriotic Organizations; Nicholas Maronetz, representative of the United Hetman Organizations (Ukrainian fascists in America); and Otto Willumeit, of the German-American Bund.

Healy is also linked with Father Coughlin and with the Silver Shirts: in his magazine he features a large portrait of the Royal Oak fuhrer with the inscription, "Priest and Patriot -- We Salute You, Father Coughlin"; at the meetings arranged by Healy in Chicago there appear not only Coughlinite leaders but also such Silver Shirts as the notorious Roy Zachary. Bundists, too, speak at these meetings, sometimes masquerading under the draperies of non-German units; thus, Wernecke speaks in the name of the Joint Committee of Patriotic Organizations but is also a leader of the Nazi Bund in Chicago.

## Healy's Past

Raymond Healy has had a career as a nazi-fascist leader of several years and many geographic points. In 1934 he was apprehended in Brooklyn, N.Y., for distributing nazi literature and stickers, and was sent for a brief period to Welfare Island. In 1935 he came to Chicago to organize the fascist American Nationalist Youth. The Bund leaders aided him, and he went East to make the A.N.Y. a national fascist movement. He soon allied himself with Howland Spencer, neighbor and hater of President Roosevelt (it was Spencer who settled Father Divine on Spencer's former estate across the Hudson from Hyde Park). Healy followed Spencer to Florida, where "Irish Hitler" joined forces with William Blanchard of the "White Front." Together with Blanchard and a few other Storm-Trooper-uniformed young men of Miami Beach, Healy figured in a tavern brawl, as the result of which he and his buddies were arrested and tried. The fine, to which they were sentenced, was paid by Blanchard's wealthy father. Following the Florida trouble, Healy moved back to Chicago.